

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A latch (1, 101) for joining two parts (16, 17) to one another via, on the one hand, a hook (2, 102) possessing a curved end (12) capable of engaging with a retaining member (18) connected to the first part, and, on the other hand, a main pin (3) designed to be attached firmly to the second part, said latch comprising an operating member (6) pivoting about an end pin (13) situated at the opposite end from the curved end of the hook, and an articulation comprising a pair of compression links (4) pivoting on the main pin (3) and on an intermediate pin (14), the latter being positioned between the main pin and the end pin, which latch is characterized in that the hook is located between the operating member and the main pin, and in that at least one compression link (4) is provided with a guide means (21) capable of contacting that surface of the hook which is nearest the operating member during the opening of the latch.

2. (Original) The latch (1, 101) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that each guide means consists of a spur (21) connected to its corresponding compression link (4).

3. (Currently Amended) The latch (1, 101) as claimed in ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, characterized in that each guide means (21) is housed in a recess (22) formed in that surface of the hook (2, 102) which is nearest the operating member (6).

4. (Original) The latch (1, 101) as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the recess (22) is larger in an area acting as a housing for the guide means (21) at the end of the latch-opening operation.

5. (Currently Amended) The latch (1) as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1—4~~ claim 1, characterized in that, in the locked position, the center of the main pin (3) and the hook (2) lie on either side of a line (19) joining the center of the retaining member (18) to the center of the intermediate pin (14).

6. (Original) The latch (1) as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the hook (2) is provided with a projection (20) capable of partially covering the main pin (3) in the locked position.

7. (Currently Amended) The latch (101) as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1—4~~ claim 1, characterized in that, in the locked position, the center of the main pin (3) is positioned between the hook (102) and a line (119) joining the center of the retaining member (18) to the center of the intermediate pin (14).

8. (Currently Amended) The latch (1, 101) as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 1—7~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a second pair of compression links (5) pivoting on the intermediate pin (14) and on the end pin (13).

9. (Currently Amended) The latch (201) as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1—7~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises only one pair of compression links (4), said operating member (206) being firmly attached to the intermediate pin (14).

10. (Original) The latch (201) as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the operating member (206) is divided into a main structure (206a) having an axis on which pivots an end structure (206b) situated at the opposite end from the end pin (13).

11. (Original) The latch (201) as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that a stop-piece (211) belonging to the main structure (206a) is capable of limiting the angular travel of the end structure (206b).

12. (Currently Amended) The latch (201) as claimed in ~~either of claims 10 and 11~~ claim 10, characterized in that, in the locked position, a spring (210) keeps the end structure (206b) aligned with the main structure (206a).

13. (Currently Amended) The latch (301) as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-12~~ claim 1, characterized in that the operating member (306) comprises a window (307) giving access to the hook (2) from the outside.

14. (Original) The latch (301) as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the hook (2) has a bore (30) that can be accessed from the outside and in which a through part (31) can be housed, which part can prevent the opening of said latch.